

used to locate a subscriber. (See *e.g.*, *Office Action* at pages 4, 6, 7, and 10, citing Col. 8, lines 40-55 of Burger.) In particular, the Examiner relies on Col. 8, lines 40-55 (and Figure 4) of Burger to reject applicants claim elements relating to querying for and/or receiving status information regarding multiple communication devices. Col. 8, lines 40-55 of Burger provide as follows:

**In response to the inbound telephone call 402**, telephone call manager module 114 (FIG. 1) determines whether there is a valid BGL that should be used to locate the subscriber 404. The rules used to determine whether a valid BGL 404 exists vary depending upon the embodiment of the invention. In one embodiment, a valid BGL 404 is the last telephone number 312 (FIG. 3B) to be used to successfully complete a prior telephone call between enhanced service platform 100 and the subscriber. This prior telephone call may have been placed either (i), by the subscriber to the enhanced service provider or (ii), by the enhanced service platform to the subscriber. In a preferred embodiment, if the prior telephone call is in fact placed by the subscriber, then the subscriber must have additionally logged in to the enhanced service platform 100 in order for the prior telephone call to be considered a valid first telephone number 404.

*(Emphasis added.)* Thus, Burger explicitly teaches that determining whether there is a valid best guess location that can be used to locate a subscriber occurs in response to receiving an inbound telephone call. In contrast, each of applicants' independent claims recite that the querying for and/or the receiving of status information takes place prior to (or occurs independently of) receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication. For example, claim 43 recites, among other limitations, "prior to receiving a request at a central location to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with the requester and one of multiple communication devices . . . receiving at the central location status information regarding the multiple communication devices from the respective networks." Because the references do not disclose all the claim elements, applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In addition to the above, with respect to claim 43, Burger does not disclose "storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the user, wherein the multiple communication devices include at least a first device and a second device, wherein the first device is a mobile phone and wherein the second device is a computer, a landline phone, or a set top box, and wherein the first device is associated with a first network and the second device is associated with a second, different network" (instead, col. 6, lines 15-67 discloses a weighting scheme that allows a user to specify priority devices); does not disclose "in response to receiving a request at the central location to facilitate establishing a communication between the device associated with the requestor and one of the multiple communication devices, selecting one of the communication devices based on the status information" (instead, 404 from Figure 4 shows a step for determining a valid BGL which is not based on status information); and does not disclose "providing the requestor with an identification of the selected communication device so that a communication can be established between the device associated with the requestor and the selected communication device" (instead, 502 from Figure 5 shows a step for transferring an incoming call, at the request of the subscriber, after it has been directed to a user device).

With respect to claim 49, in addition to the fact that Burger does not disclose that the querying for and/or the receiving of status information takes place prior to (or occurs independently of) receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication, Burger further does not disclose "at a central location, storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the intended recipient, wherein at least two of the multiple communication devices are each associated with different respective networks in the multi-networked environment" (instead, col. 6, lines 15-67 discloses a weighting scheme that allows a user to specify priority devices); does not disclose "at the central location, receiving a request for identifying a communication path for use in establishing the communication between the device associated with the communication initiator and a device associated with the intended recipient" (instead, 402 from Figure 4 shows a step for

receiving an inbound telephone call); does not disclose "at the central location, in response to the received request, at least assisting in the selecting of a communication device at which the user can likely be reached, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on an evaluation of the received status information" (instead, 404 from Figure 4 shows a step for determining a valid BGL which is not based on status information); and does not disclose "directing a call to the network to which the selected communication device belongs to enable a communication session to be established with the selected communication device" (instead, 502 from Figure 5 shows a step for transferring an incoming call, at the request of the subscriber, after it has been directed to a user device).

With respect to claim 52, in addition to the fact that Burger does not disclose that the querying for and/or the receiving of status information takes place prior to (or occurs independently of) receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication, Burger further does not disclose "status information [that] pertains to at least two communication devices associated with the user including a first device and a second, different device, wherein the first device is associated with a first network in the multi-network environment, and wherein the second device is associated with a second, different network in the multi-networked environment" (instead, col. 6, lines 15-67 discloses a weighting scheme that allows a user to specify priority devices); does not disclose "receiving the status information for the at least two communication devices, wherein the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the at least two communication devices are on or off" (instead, col. 7, lines 5-65 discloses a scoring scheme based on successfully completed phone calls within a given time interval); and does not disclose "in response to a receiving a request for establishing a communication session with one of the multiple communication devices, selecting a preferred communication device from the at least two communication devices based on the received status information" (instead, 502 from Figure 5 shows a step for transferring an incoming call, at the request of the subscriber, after it has been directed to a user device).

In addition to failing to disclose applicants' "means for receiving status information regarding the multiple communication devices," "means for querying at least the first network and the second network," and "means for receiving status information from at least one network element in the first network or the second network," Burger does not disclose several of the elements from claim 59. For example, Burger fails to disclose "means for storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the user, wherein the multiple communication devices include at least a first device and a second device, wherein the first device is a mobile phone and wherein the second device is a computer, a landline phone, or a set top box and the first device is associated with a first network and the second device is associated with a second network" (instead, col. 6, lines 15-67 discloses a weighting scheme that allows a user to specify priority devices); does not disclose that "the storing is performed prior to receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with the requestor and one of multiple communication devices associated with the user" (instead, 402 from Figure 4 shows a step for receiving an inbound telephone call); does not disclose "means for selecting one of the communication devices based on the status information" (instead, 404 from Figure 4 shows a step for determining a valid BGL); and does not disclose "means for providing the requestor with an identification of the selected communication device so that a communication can be established between the device associated with the requestor and the selected communication device" (instead, 502 from Figure 5 shows a step for transferring an incoming call, at the request of the subscriber, after it has been directed to a user device).

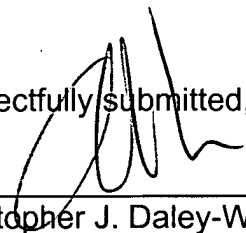
With respect to claim 60, in addition to the fact that Burger does not disclose that the querying for and/or the receiving of status information takes place prior to (or occurs independently of) receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication, Burger, even when viewed in combination with Light's polling feature does not disclose or render obvious applicants' claimed technique. For example, Burger does not disclose "receiving the status information for the at least two communication devices" (instead, col. 6, lines 15-

67 discloses a weighting scheme that allows a user to specify priority devices); does not disclose that "the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the at least two communication devices are on or off" (instead col. 7, lines 1-55 disclose a scoring scheme based on successfully completed phone calls within a given time interval); and does not disclose "a processor configured for selecting a preferred communication device from the set of multiple communication devices based on the received status information, wherein the processor performs the selecting in response to receiving a request for establishing a communication session with the user" (instead, 502 from Figure 5 shows a step for transferring an incoming call, at the request of the subscriber, after it has been directed to a user device).

In view of the above, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has questions or would like to further discuss applicants' response, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative directly at 206-359-3599. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 364388074US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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